



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

HAYNES, Barton F.

Atty. Ref.: 1579-601

Serial No.: 09/956,940

Group Art Unit:

Filed: September 21, 2001

Examiner:

For: USE OF SYNTHETIC PEPTIDES TO INDUCE TOLERANCE TO
PATHOGENIC T AND B CELL EPITOPES OF AUTOANTIGENS OR
INFECTIOUS AGENTS

* * * * *

January 30, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Kindly preliminarily amend this application as
follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Add the following new claims.

16. (New) A method of facilitating entry of a
molecule into a cell comprising:

- i) preparing a conjugate comprising said molecule
and an HIV fusion domain, and
- ii) contacting said conjugate resulting from step (i)

with said cell under conditions such that conjugate binds to said cell and said entry is thereby facilitated.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein said molecule is a peptide, polypeptide or protein.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17 wherein said fusion domain is conjugated C-terminal or N-terminal to said peptide, polypeptide or protein.

19. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein said molecule is a nucleic acid.

20. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.

21. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein said molecule is a therapeutic agent.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21 wherein said molecule is an HIV regulatory protein that binds viral RNA.

23. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein said fusion domain comprises 5 to 15 amino acids.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23 wherein said fusion domain comprises 7 to 13 amino acids.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24 wherein said fusion domain comprises the sequence AVGIGALFLGFL.

26. (New) A method of treating HIV infection comprising contacting cells of a patient in need of such treatment with a conjugate comprising an HIV fusion domain and an HIV regulatory protein that binds viral RNA but does not promote RNA transcription under conditions such that said conjugate enters said cells, said treatment thereby being effected.

27. (New) A conjugate comprising an HIV fusion domain and a non-proteinaceous molecule.

28. (New) The conjugate according to claim 27 wherein said molecule is RNA or DNA.

29. (New) The conjugate according to claim 27 wherein said fusion domain comprises 5 to 15 amino acids.

30. (New) The conjugate according to claim 27 wherein said fusion domain comprises 7 to 13 amino acids.

31. (New) The conjugate according to claim 27 wherein said fusion domain comprises the sequence AVGIGALFLGFL.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

The newly presented claims find support throughout the disclosure (including the claims as originally filed). Particular attention is directed to pages 32 and 33.

A PTO-1449 Form listing art cited in the parent case is attached. The Examiner is requested to initial and return that form. If further copies of any of the listed art are required, the Examiner is requested to so indicate and same will be provided.

HAYNES, Barton F. -- Serial No.: 09/956,940

An early and favorable Action on the merits is
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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